

What is claimed is:

1. A method of booting a processor system, the method comprising:  
accepting a selection of a desired operating system to be booted;  
accepting a user credential associated with a user who has selected the desired operating system to be booted;  
determining if the user credential corresponds to the desired operating system to be booted; and  
enabling booting of the desired operating system if the user credential corresponds to the desired operating system.
2. A method as defined by claim 1, further comprising determining if the desired operating system comprises a legacy operating system.
3. A method as defined by claim 2, wherein if the desired operating system comprises a legacy operating system, a basic input/output system (BIOS) boot specification determines a boot object for the desired operating system.
4. A method as defined by claim 2, wherein if the desired operating system does not comprise a legacy operating system, a boot next variable option boot object indicates a location of the desired operating system.
5. A method as defined by claim 1, wherein the user credential comprises one or more of a salted password, a portable token, and biometric information.
6. A method as defined by claim 1, wherein determining if the user credential corresponds to the desired operating system to be booted comprises determining if the user credential corresponds to a credential from a platform owner.
7. A method as defined by claim 1, further comprising determining if a trusted boot is disabled and booting the desired operating system if the trusted boot is disabled even if the user credential does not correspond to the desired operating system.
8. A method as defined by claim 1, further comprising enabling a platform owner to modify a list of user credentials and the desired operating systems to which they correspond.

9. A method as defined by claim 1, further comprising determining if a platform owner has been established and enabling a user to enter a platform owner credential if no platform owner has been established.

10. An article of manufacture comprising a machine-accessible medium having a plurality of machine accessible instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to:

accept a selection of a desired operating system to be booted;

accept a user credential associated with a user who has selected the desired operating system to be booted;

determine if the user credential corresponds to the desired operating system to be booted; and

enable booting of the desired operating system if the user credential corresponds to the desired operating system.

11. An article of manufacture as defined by claim 10, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to determine if the desired operating system comprises a legacy operating system.

12. An article of manufacture as defined by claim 11, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to determine a boot object for the desired operating system from a basic input/output system (BIOS) boot specification if the desired operating system comprises a legacy operating system.

13. An article of manufacture as defined by claim 11, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to determine a location of the desired operating system from a boot next variable option boot object if the desired operating system does not comprise a legacy operating system.

14. An article of manufacture as defined by claim 10, wherein the user credential comprises one or more of a salted password, a portable token, and biometric information.

15. An article of manufacture as defined by claim 10, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to determine if the user credential corresponds to the desired operating system to be booted by determining if the user credential corresponds to a credential from a platform owner

16. An article of manufacture as defined by claim 10, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to determine if a trusted boot is

disabled and to boot the desired operating system if the trusted boot is disabled even if the user credential does not correspond to the desired operating system.

17. An article of manufacture as defined by claim 10, further comprising instructions that, when executed, cause a machine to determine if a platform owner has been established and to enable a user to enter a platform owner credential if no platform owner has been established.

18. A system comprising:
  - a memory; and
  - a processor coupled to the memory, wherein the processor is programmed to:
    - accept a selection of a desired operating system to be booted;
    - accept a user credential associated with a user who has selected the desired operating system to be booted;
    - determine if the user credential corresponds to the desired operating system to be booted; and
    - enable booting of the desired operating system if the user credential corresponds to the desired operating system.
19. A system as defined by claim 18, wherein the processor is further programmed to determine if the desired operating system comprises a legacy operating system.
20. A system as defined by claim 19, wherein the processor is further programmed to determine a boot object for the desired operating system from a basic input/output system (BIOS) boot specification if the desired operating system comprises a legacy operating system.
21. A system as defined by claim 19, wherein the processor is further programmed to determine a location of the desired operating system from a boot next variable option boot object if the desired operating system does not comprise a legacy operating system.
22. A system as defined by claim 18, wherein the user credential comprises one or more of a salted password, a portable token, and biometric information.
23. A system as defined by claim 18, wherein the processor is further programmed to determine if the user credential corresponds to the desired operating system to be booted by determining if the user credential corresponds to a credential from a platform owner
24. A system as defined by claim 18, wherein the processor is further programmed to determine if a trusted boot is disabled and to boot the desired

operating system if the trusted boot is disabled even if the user credential does not correspond to the desired operating system.

25. An apparatus to control selection of operating system booting, the apparatus comprising:

a permissions table storing user credentials and boot objects corresponding to the user credentials; and

a user verification segment coupled to the permissions table and accepting a selection of a desired operating system to be booted and further accepting a submitted user credential associated with a user who has selected the desired operating system to be booted, the user verification segment determining if the submitted user credential is authorized to boot the desired operating system.

26. An apparatus as defined by claim 25, wherein the user verification segment returns an address of the desired operating system if the submitted user credential is authorized to boot the desired operating system.